

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

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R 181511Z APR 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5233

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 3885

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2078

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS/ PFOR, IT, YO, NATO

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV/ITALIAN "ZONE B" DISPUTE

1. AT APRIL 17 POLADS ITALIAN REP REPORTED ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ZONE B DISPUTE. NOTING THAT RECENT STATEMENTS BY A SPOKESMAN FOR THE YUGOSLAV FOREIGN MINISTRY CONFIRMED YUGOSLAV MILITARY MANEUVERS NEAR THE DISPUTED AREA HAD A POLITICAL PURPOSE, ITALIAN REP CONTRASTED THIS WITH THE LONG-PLANNED NATO EXERCISE "DARK IMAGE" WHICH WAS UNRELATED TO THE POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES AND WITH THE FACT THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT PLANS NO MILITARY EXERCISES OF ITS OWN NEAR THE DISPUTED AREA. THE ITALIAN REP TERMED THE YUGOSLAV MILITARY ACTIVITIES AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS ABOUT THEM AS OUT OF PLACE AND NOT DESERVING OF REPLY. HE NOTED THE ITALIAN PUBLIC IS CALM ABOUT THIS ENTIRE MATTER AND THERE IS NO PUBLIC PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT TO PAY UNDUE ATTENTION TO THE MATTER.

2. HOWEVER, THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAD TO TAKE NOTICE OF A STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT TITO IN SARAJEVO OVER THE PAST WEEKEND IN WHICH HE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT ZONE B NO LONGER EXISTS. THIS, CONFIDENTIAL

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THE ITALIANS FEEL, IS ANOTHER AND MORE SERIOUS MATTER. ACCORDINGLY, THE ITALIAN REP SAID HIS GOVERNMENT HAD TO CALL THE ATTENTION OF THE YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES TO THE 1954 LONDON MIMORANDUM WHICH CLEARLY STATED THAT THE LINE BETWEEN ZONES A AND B

IS AN ADMINISTRATIVE LINE OF DEMARCATION NOT A FRONTIER, AND TO THE FACT THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT IS NOT AUTHORIZED TO RECOGNIZE THIS LINE AS AN INTERNATIONAL FRONTIER. THE ITALIAN REP STRESSED TO THE POLADS THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS NO INTENTION OF EVER TRYING TO MODIFY THE PRESENT LINE, CERTAINLY NOT BY FORCE, AND NOT EVEN IN A FRIENDLY FASHION, BUT IT IS AN IMPORTANT LEGAL PRECISION TO NOTE THAT ZONE B, WHILE ADMINISTERED BY YUGOSLAVIA, IS NOT UNDER YUGOSLAV SOVEREIGNTY.

3. U.K. AND BELGIAN REPS REPORTED ON RECENT YUGOSLAV DEMARCHES IN LONDON AND BRUSSELS COMPLAINING OF EXERCISE "DARK IMAGE". IN BOTH INSTANCES YUGOSLAVS WERE ASSURED THE LONG-PLANNED NATO MANEUVERS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE ZONE B DISPUTE.  
RUMSFELD

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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**TAGS:** PFOR, IT, YO, NATO  
**To:** STATE INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS  
BELGRADE  
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